



DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELESSNESS AND
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Homelessness in San Francisco & Homelessness Response System Overview

State Budget Hearing on Homelessness | Panel #2 | October 12, 2022



Who We Are

- The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) launched in **August 2016**.
- **Combines** and **coordinates** City programs to address homelessness.
- Mission: make homelessness in San Francisco **rare, brief, and one-time**.
- Serves over **14,000** people daily through the **Homelessness Response System (HRS)**.



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The Core Components of the Homelessness Response System

Core Component: Street Outreach

- Connects those living outside with the rest of the Homelessness Response System.
- The San Francisco **Homeless Outreach Team (SFHOT)**:
 - Works to engage and stabilize people experiencing homelessness.
 - Builds **trust** and **relationships**.
 - Works in small teams 7 days a week.
 - Staffs Street Wellness Response Teams.
 - Offers available **resources, supplies, case management, Access Partner** services.



Core Component: Problem Solving & Prevention

Interventions to **prevent, divert, or rapidly exit** people from homelessness by identifying possible pathways to resolve their current housing crisis without needing ongoing services from the Homelessness Response System

- **Targeted Homelessness Prevention** – flexible financial assistance and services for those most likely to become homeless
- **Problem Solving Services**
 - Problem Solving conversations
 - Housing location assistance
 - Reunification, mediation, and conflict resolution
 - Flexible financial assistance
- Area of expansion for HSH – multi-agency collaborations

Core Component: Coordinated Entry (CE)



- "Front door" of the Homelessness Response System.
- Centralized data system and "by-name" database of clients.
- Access Points across the City:
 - Problem Solving conversations
 - Population-specific assessments
 - Prioritization based on vulnerability, length of homelessness, and barriers to housing.
 - Problem Solving or Housing Referral Status – sliding thresholds.
 - [Demographic information available.](#)
- Services also available at Mobile Access Points and from Access Partners (ex. DPH, HOT).
- CE Evaluation and Redesign in process in 2022.

Core Component: Temporary Shelter

Temporary Shelter provides temporary places for people to stay while accessing other services & seeking housing solutions.

• **Congregate Shelter**

- Most Navigation Centers and traditional shelters.
- Navigation Centers: pets, partners, more possessions.

• **Non- and Semi-Congregate Shelter**

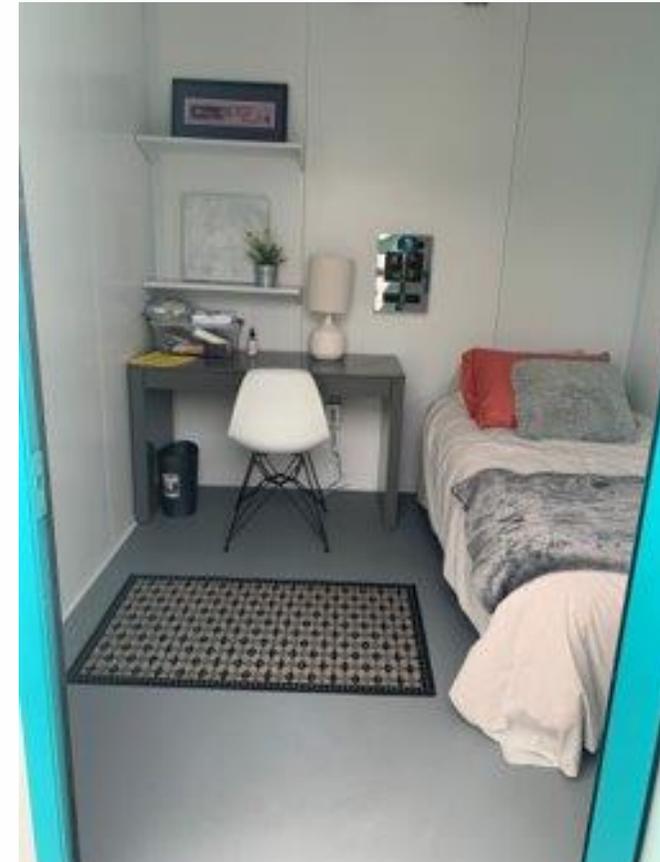
- Cabin programs, new shelter interventions.

• **Transitional Housing**

• **Drop In Resource Centers**

• **Crisis Interventions**

- Safe Sleep and Vehicle Triage Centers



Non-congregate cabin at 33 Gough.

COVID-19 Alternative Shelter Program



• RV/Trailer Site

- Permanently sustain

• Safe Sleep Sites

- Temporarily maintain.

• Shelter-in-Place Hotels

- Winddown: June 2021 through fall 2022.
- Over **1,320** guests housed.

Core Component: Housing

Permanent solutions to homelessness through **subsidies** and **supportive services**.

- Permanent Supportive Housing
 - **Site-based programs**
 - **Scattered-site programs:** Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool, federal voucher programs like Emergency Housing Vouchers.
 - Tenants pay up to 30% of income in rent.
- Rapid Rehousing
 - **Time-limited rental assistance** with supportive services.
 - Scattered-site private market units.



Core Component: Housing Ladder



Opportunities for residents of **Permanent Supportive Housing** to move to:

- More independent living in the Homelessness Response System.
- Independent living outside the system.

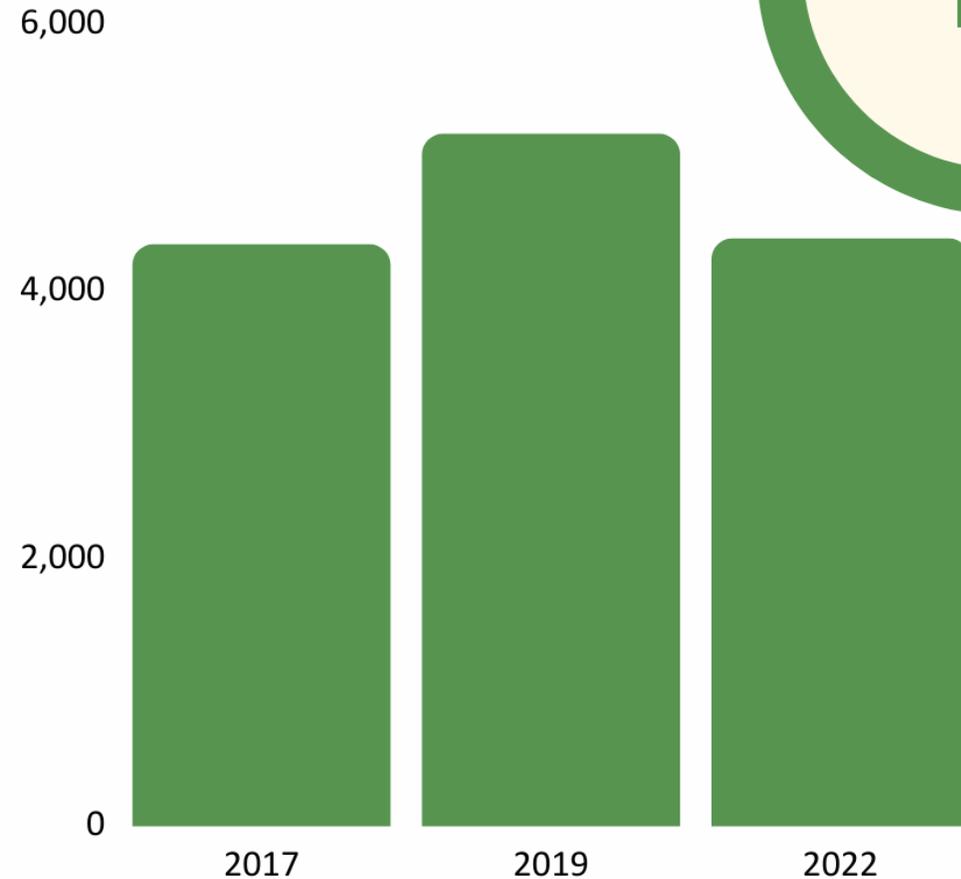


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Homelessness In San Francisco: Point in Time Count 2022

Unsheltered Homelessness

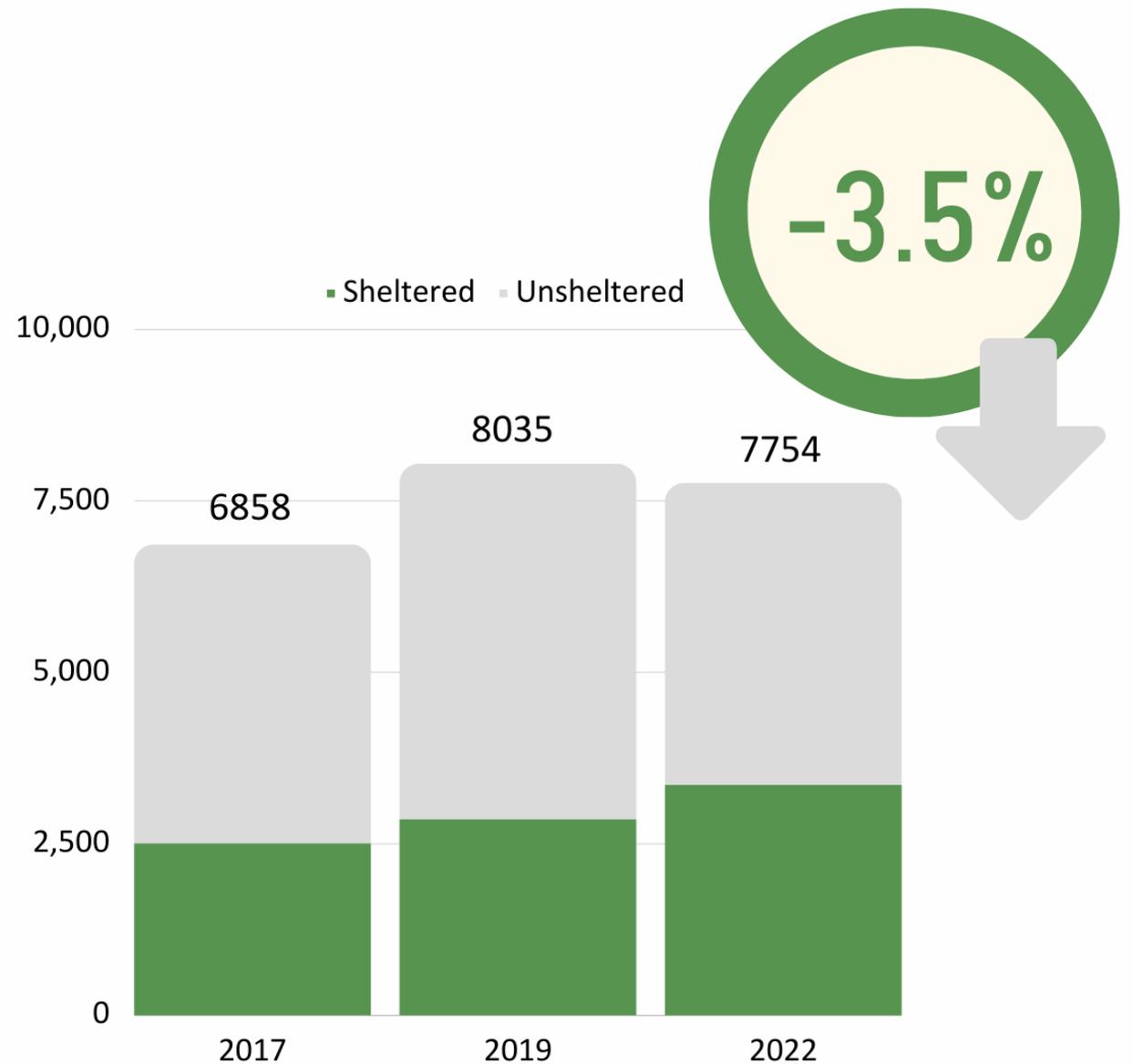
- 4,397 people were unsheltered on the night of the PIT, representing a **15% decrease** since 2019
- The decrease corresponds with a significant increase in housing and shelter resources



Total Homelessness

- Total homelessness (sheltered + unsheltered) **decreased by 3.5%** since 2019 from 8,035 to 7,754

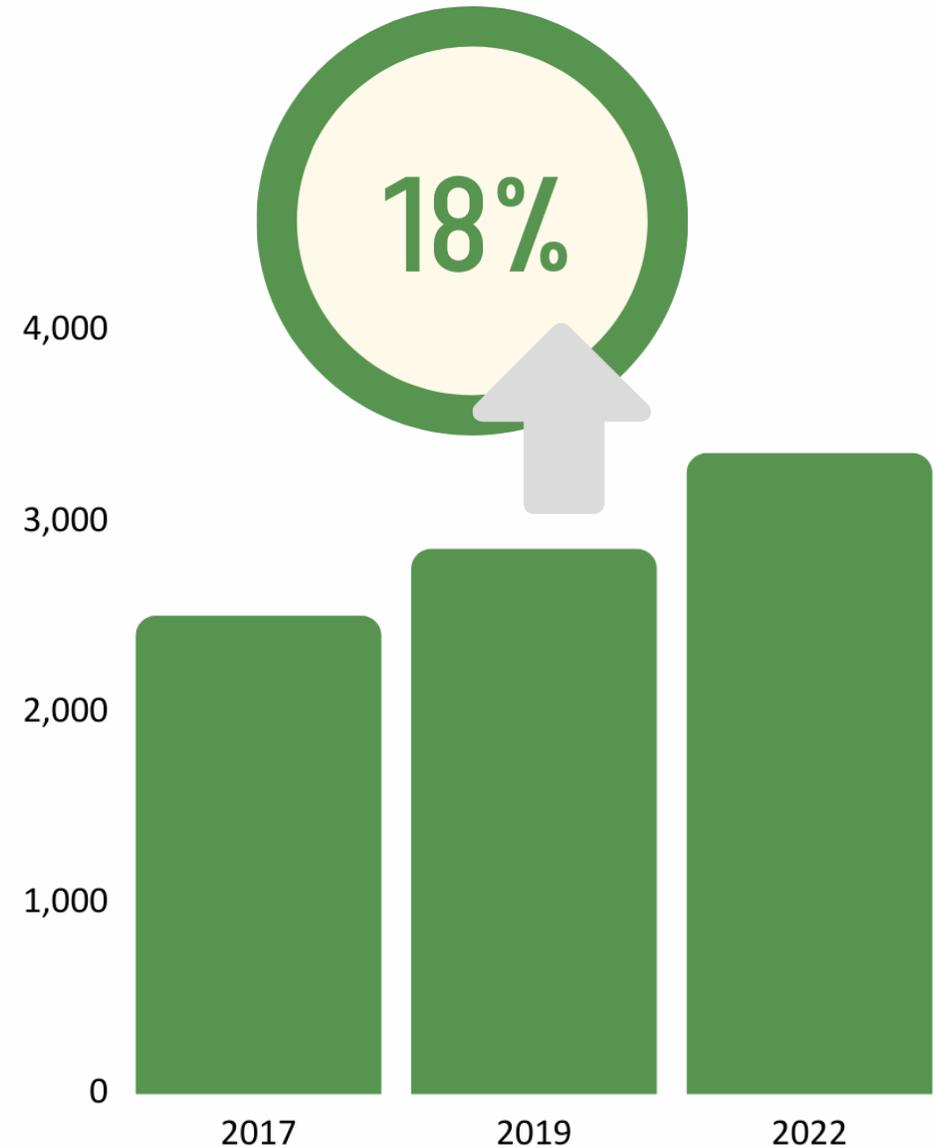
- This represents a 9% reduction in homeless households*



*Households include families with children and adult couples

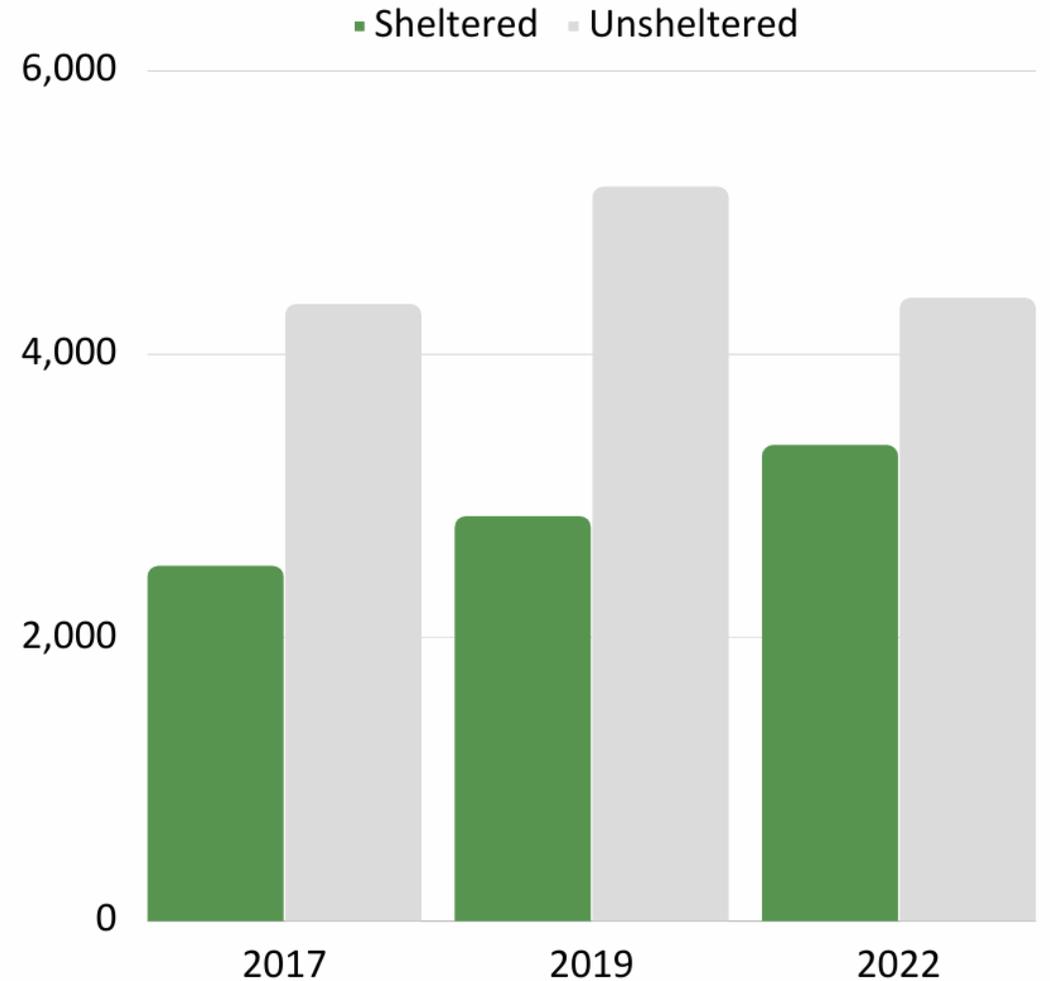
Sheltered Homelessness

- 3,357 people were living in shelter, an **18% increase** since 2019
- This corresponds with a substantial increase (24%) in available shelter beds
- Shelter settings include emergency shelters, transitional housing, Navigation Centers, SIP Hotels, stabilization units, and winter shelters



Percentage Sheltered

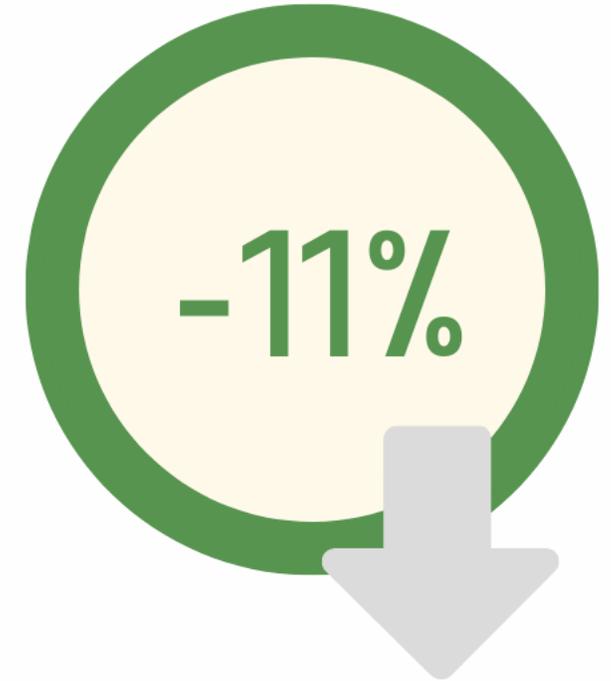
- Unhoused people were **more likely to be sheltered** in 2022
- 43% of the homeless population was sheltered in 2022 compared to 36% in 2019





Chronically Homelessness

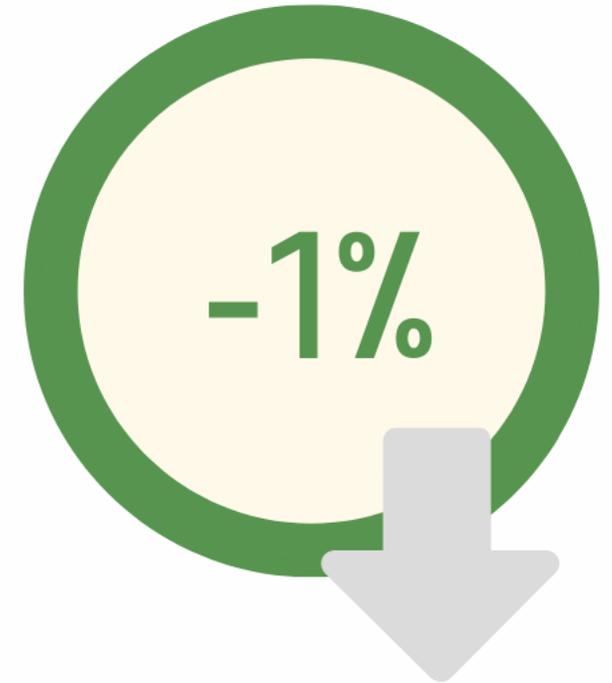
- There were 2,691 chronically homeless people in 2022 compared to 3030 in 2019, a **reduction of 11%**
- San Francisco's homeless population was **less chronically homeless** in 2022, at a rate of 35% in 2022 compared to 38% in 2019





Families

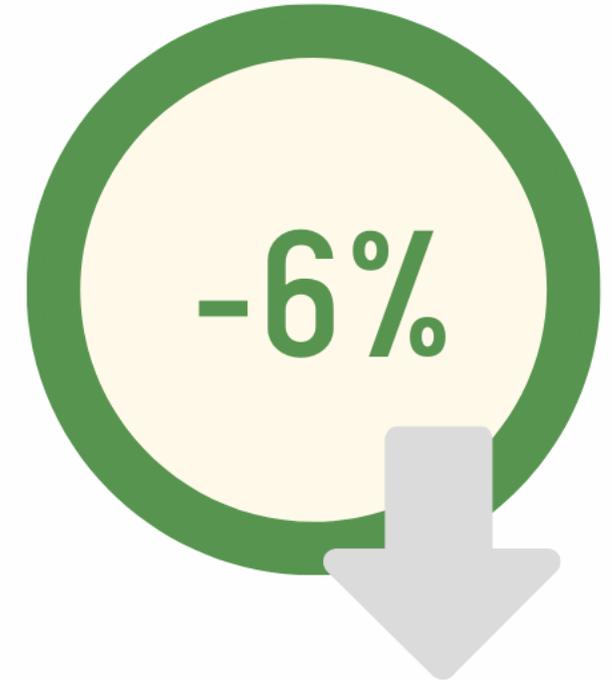
- Homeless families **declined 1%** since 2019 from 208 to 205 households
- This decline was observed despite new efforts in 2022 between HSH and nonprofit providers to identify unhoused families





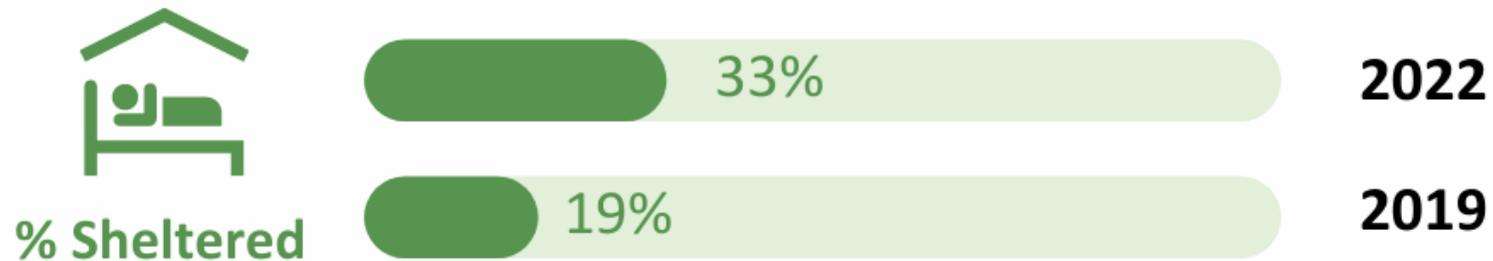
Youth Households

- Unaccompanied youth (age 24 and under) **decreased 6%** since 2019 from 1145 to 1073
- Parenting youth households **decreased 47%** since 2019 from 36 to 19



Veterans

- The total number of homeless veterans **remained flat**, with 608 homeless veterans in 2019 and 605 homeless veterans in 2022
- Veterans were **more likely to be sheltered** in 2022; 19% of homeless veterans were sheltered in 2019 compared to 33% in 2022





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Thank you.

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